

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-3 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Berchem. Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the surface of the valve seat and slide plate are selected from the group consisting of silicon or quartz glass. Berchem corresponds to DE 3829506 C2, which was discussed extensively in the specification of the present application.

Berchem teaches the use of different materials for the valve seat and the slide plate, whereas the present invention uses the same material, which must be selected from the group consisting of silicon and quartz glass. Therefore, though Berchem may disclose a similar construction, Berchem does not teach or make obvious the use of silicon or quartz glass for the valve seat and the slide plate, but teaches away from this combination. The material used in the present invention is advantageous for handling granular polysilicon, because it prevents a contamination of the granular polysilicon, which is unavoidable if a disc slide according to Berchem is used.

In view of the teaching of Berchem, (and German Patent No. DE 3829506 C2), which specifically indicates that the problem of disruptive sticking of the valve element and valve seat element when ceramic materials are used can only be solved by pairing different ceramic materials, the person skilled in the art will not consider using a disc slide as a shut-off fitting for

controlling a flow of polysilicon granules, since a combination of materials of this type would inevitably contaminate the silicon granules.

Surprisingly, however, corresponding tests have shown that a disc slide whose valve seat and shut-off element are provided with a surface made from silicon or quartz glass or are made from these materials does not have any problems in terms of sticking between the shut-off element and valve seat.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-3 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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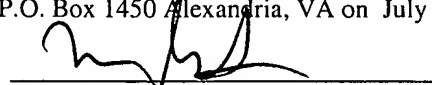
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